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Comma Ben.

COMOR-D-4/4

24 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Proposal for Change of OAK Reports

The following memorandum has been submitted by Commander Skidmore of the Navy. It will be placed on the agenda for the meeting of 30 April.

1. We believe that the OAK reports which are transmitted electrically by the National Photographic Interpretation Center after each day's readout of KEYHOLE photography should be changed in format and drastically reduced in length. This statement is made for the following reasons:

a. The OAK messages contain a great deal of information which is believed to be extraneous for the majority of the present addressees. For example, the message OAK goes into great detail on all targets covered by photography. It is submitted that all that is really required in the message is information of

It would appear that an expanded version of the present summary and a shortening of the present message would

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be most appropriate to all addressees except for possibly SAC/ACIC and possible Washington area recipients. A listing of COMOR targets not covered, not observed, or indicated "no change" for one reason or another serves very little purpose. Pass number, frame number, and X-Y coordinates have little meaning to commands which do not hold the film or a plot of the coverage.

b. The "hard copy" is received by interested commands (with the possible exception of SAC and ACIC) well before they receive their copy of the mission film. Therefore, this publication is available as an aid to locating targets and the same information by message is not required.

2. All major U. S. Navy commands who are recipient of KEYHOLE materials have indicated that they desire only significant new (hard) intelligence in the message copy of the OAK. For this reason, the chief of Naval Operations edits the message OAK's, deletes everything but new substantive intelligence, and retransmits this information to Navy commands. By so doing, the burden on communications facilities (which are drastically undermanned) is considerably reduced.

3. It is recommended that each COMOR member conduct a survey to determine the actual requirements of their appropriate commands. If it is then determined by the majority of members that the existing system is in need of review, it is recommended that the COMOR undertake the task without delay.

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Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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